(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for not distributing free medicines to the persons from poor and weaker sections in the said Government hospitals thereby forcing them to purchase such medicines from market; and

(d) the orders/directions issued by Government to all the Government hospitals for distribution of free medicines to the poor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) There is no shortage of medicines in Central Government Hospitals in Delhi. Medicines, as per the hospital formulary, are distributed to the patients free of cost as per the existing policy. In case of non-availability of essential and life saving medicines, the same are also procured and supplied to the poor patients.

Artificial Limb

1115. SHRI BIRABHADRA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of applications received in the Ministry during the period from 1st January, 2002 to 31st January, 2003 for conveying sanction for artificial limb;

(b) the cases where sanction has been conveyed to their employer;

(c) the details of applicants whose applications are pending in CGHS; and

(d) by when the sanction is likely to be conveyed in all such pending applications?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Five.

(b) Three.

(c) Two.

(d) In one case, the Expert Committee has not approved imported artificial limb requested by the beneficiary and has instead suggested

using an Artificial Limb of Indian make having the same functional properties. The other case is under process. As soon as a decision is taken on the case, the same would be conveyed to the beneficiary.

Side-effects of cough syrups

1116. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various brands of cough syrups available across the counter in the country have ever been got analysed to assess its side-effects on patients;

(b) if so, the details thereof *inter-alia* stating the side-effects on the patients;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that most cough syrups available freely in the market have dextro-methorphan (DXM), suppressants and expectorants; and

(e) if so, the effects on nerve system and brain of these ingredients on the patients?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The rationality of cough preparations which contain different categories of therapeutic ingredients had been examined by an expert committee in the year 1998 and guidelines were made available to State Drugs Control Organisations including labeling requirements requiring mention of specific category of cough preparations, precautions and warnings appropriate for their ingredients based on the known side-effects of such ingredients.

(d) and (e) Dextro-methorphan (DXM) is a commonly used cough suppressant for the relief of unproductive cough. According to the medicial literature, adverse effect with Dextro-methorphan appears to be rare and include dizziness and gastro-intestinal disturbances. Excitation, confusion and respiratory depression may occur after over doses.